

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Addendum #1

For

Request for Proposal for

**FIBER OPTIC FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION:
10th STREET & COLUMBUS UTILITIES**

Columbus, Indiana

I. Overview

The following is a brief overview of the intent of the “FIBER OPTIC FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION: 10th STREET & COLUMBUS UTILITIES” RFP. It should be noted that this RFP is not a typical construction RFP and that it is assumed that the Respondent would be a telecommunications service provider (e.g. Internet Service Provider) or would be a construction firm partnered with such an entity.

The City is interested in a relationship whereby the City provides the Respondent the ability to utilize the Greater Columbus Conduit System, in this case only the conduit starting at a Central Avenue / 10th Street handhole and ending at a handhole on McClure Road, to provide fiber-to-the-curb and fiber-to-the-home services to Columbus businesses and residents. In exchange for this access, the Selected Respondent would pay the City of Columbus a fee for utilizing this infrastructure (e.g. one time conduit lease payment plus an ongoing % of gross revenue sharing) as well as manage this piece of the City’s conduit system for a fixed term.

The RFP can be broken down into two (2) segments:

- 1) “Last Mile” Fiber Optic Facilities Construction to Columbus Utilities – The City of Columbus would like a Respondent to construct underground fiber facilities from a handhole on McClure Road to Columbus Utilities and terminate these fiber facilities within the Columbus Utilities location. The City would pay for the facilities construction and would own all of the installed facilities and hardware.
- 2) 10th St. Fiber Services & Management – The City of Columbus would like a Respondent to populate the City’s 10th Street portion of the Greater Columbus Conduit System with innerduct and fiber facilities (starting at a Central Avenue / 10th Street handhole and ending at a handhole on McClure Road) and provide fiber-to-the-curb and fiber-to-the-home services to Columbus businesses and residents. All costs associated with the population of said conduit with fiber and innerduct would be born by the Selected Respondent.

II. Respondent Q&A

The following are questions that were received by 4 PM EST on Friday, May 16, 2008.

1. “Will there be a pre-bid conference and site walk through for this project?”

Columbus Answer: No there will not be a pre-bid conference for this project.

2. “Are scaled street plots available for footages to arrive at lengths?”

Columbus Answer: Information regarding Greater Columbus Conduit System as-built drawings should be directed to the Columbus City Engineer’s Office at (812) 376-2540.

3. “Section 3.1.1 10th Street Inner-Duct construction States to place (3) 1 ¼ (inch) inner-ducts in one of four 4 (inch) ducts. Can you provide the distance and the number of hand-holes between the 10th Street and McClure hand holes?”

Columbus Answer: Please see the map below. Red flags represent handhole locations. It should be noted that this is not an as-built drawing; however, it does represent the approximate location of Greater Columbus Conduit System conduits and handholes and approximate footages.



4. “3.2.1 10th Street Fiber Services & Management directs us to Section 3.4 Fiber Optic Cable. While it clearly calls for Single Mode fiber with 60’ loops left in hand holes (see question 3) it does not specify strand count EG: 12, 24, etc strand.”

Columbus Answer: The City has no preference as to the size of the single-mode fiber optic facilities as these facilities would be owned and managed by the Selected Respondent. The purpose of this specification is to ensure that the Selected Respondent utilizes the handholes correctly to ensure future expansion of the facilities.

5. “3.2.4 10th Street Fiber Services & Management. It is understood should damage to the installed fiber by outside entities occur the City of Columbus would incur no cost as any cost should fall under that outside entities insurance EG: Electrical utility company. However, in the remote chance City employee(s) cause damage would we bill the City then or an insurance company?”

Columbus Answer: The intent of having the Selected Respondent manage the City’s conduit system is that the Selected Respondent’s fiber and innerduct would be in the City’s conduit system and should there be damage (e.g. fiber cut), the Selected Respondent would dispatch the appropriate team to correct the damage to the fiber and also correct the City’s damaged conduit as well, likely a small incremental cost. In the event of damage to the City’s conduit system and the Selected Respondent’s fiber facilities contained therein is caused by a City of Columbus employee, the City would work with the Selected Respondent to arrive at a fair and equitable resolution.

6. “3.3.1 Columbus Utilities Fiber Construction states to place 2 (inch) HDPE duct and (1) 12 strand SM fiber to a designated demarcation point in the Columbus Utilities facility. Can you provide the distance between the hand-hold and the building? How far into the building must the fiber travel to reach the demark room? Does this require a pull box transition point at point of building entry?”

Columbus Answer: The estimated distance from the McClure Road handhole to the point of demarcation at Columbus Utilities location is approximately less than 250 feet. A pull box transition point at the point of building entry is not needed.

7. “3.3.2 Columbus Utilities Fiber calls for Corning type enclosures and connectors. Is this a standard of quality? Can we propose other manufactures that meet this standard of quality?”

Columbus Answer: Yes, this is a standard of quality. Yes, the Respondent may propose other manufactures that meet this standard of quality.

8. “3.3.4 Columbus Utilities Fiber speaks of the splicing of the 12 strand to ‘Smithville owned fiber’. Is this existing fiber? Is this fiber being run by others? Who owns the Columbus Utilities fiber? Are we to connectorize the 12 strand in the Columbus utilizes building? If

Columbus Answer: This sentence was poorly worded in the RFP and compounded by a pasting error. Please disregard the 3.3.4 sentence as it was originally written. The intent of 3.3.4 is that the connection of the Columbus Utilities' 12 strand fiber optic facilities would need to be spliced to the Selected Respondent's 10th Street to McClure Road fiber facilities.

9. "3.6.1 Splicing & Termination has us providing 'all splice closures, termination closures connectors, etc'. Up to this point the only cabinet and splice closure are called out for is at the Columbus Utilities D-marc and the Smithville Digital hand hole. Are there others?"

Columbus Answer: The required splicing and termination required include termination of 12 fiber strands within a patch panel at Columbus Utilities and one splice at the McClure Road handhole to splice said fiber to the Selected Respondent's fiber. Termination and connectorization within the Columbus Utilities location would be born by the City of Columbus; however, all costs associated with splicing said fiber to the Selected Respondent's fiber would be a cost born by the Selected Respondent. It should be noted that there would need to be another splice to connect the 10th Street to McClure Road fiber to the Selected Respondent's or Internet service provider fiber optic facilities – this would also be a cost born by the Selected Respondent.

10. 3.6.3.b Splicing & Termination DOES call out a 24 strand fiber optic cable. Yet the scope calls for fiber from the 10th Street Hand-hole to the McClure Street hand-hole (no termination points). What termination points other than the Columbus Utilities exist/planned for? How many splice points exist or planned for other than the McClure Street/Smithville Digital?

Columbus Answer: How and where the Selected Respondent's facilities connect to fiber facilities outside of the Greater Columbus Conduit System (e.g. Internet Service Provider fiber facilities) is the responsibility and cost of the Selected Respondent. The call for a 24 strand fiber optic cable is a typo – this should be a 12 strand fiber optic cable, matching the requirement set forth in 3.1.1.

11. "The following questions pertain to Page 17, Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of the RFP for innerduct and fiber optic cable installation."

- a. "How can a contractor be responsible for ongoing maintenance for the system without being paid for services provided?"

Columbus Answer: The Selected Respondent would be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the system without being paid because the Selected Respondent would be utilizing the City's conduit system at a leased cost that would be less than the Selected Respondent could build and own the same conduit system. This would be a very attractive proposal for a telecommunications service provider

that would like to offer fiber-to-the-home and fiber-to-the-curb services in Columbus but could not afford to build the buried fiber optic facilities to do so.

- b. “Is there a time frame for the maintenance or is it totally open ended?”
Columbus Answer: There will be a fixed term for the conduit occupancy and maintenance agreement. The maintenance of the 10th Street conduit would coincide with the Selected Respondent’s occupancy in the Greater Columbus Conduit System.
- c. “Is there a monetary limit to how much a contractor would have to repair at no cost to the city?”
Columbus Answer: Please see the answer to question 11a, above.